

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system comprising the steps of:

deciding whether or not an RFC should be done;

for each RFC to be done, assigning individual tasks within each RFC to acceptable servers;

for each RFC to be done, assigning a start time to said individual tasks;

wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;

wherein the at least one job is selected from a group consisting of hardware changes and software changes; and

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of reserving all the servers involved for a duration that begins at the start of a first task and ends at the finish of a last task for each RFC that should be done.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing a value of all RFCs done;

wherein the value is a profit value derived from performing a plurality of jobs associated with a selected subset of the RFCs; and

wherein the profit value for each RFC is expressed as a value of performing the jobs minus a value of associated costs.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing the number of RFCs done.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing total downtime.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing at least one cost associated with downtime.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing a total execution time in implementing a task.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of maximizing the number of RFCs meeting their deadlines

9. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing multiple deadline penalties associated with the RFCs and/or their respective tasks

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing an average response time of each RFCs.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of minimizing a weighted average response time of each RFCs.

12. **(Previously Presented)** A system for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system, comprising:

an arrangement for deciding whether or not an RFC should be done;

an arrangement for assigning individual tasks to acceptable servers for each RFC to be done; and

an arrangement for assigning a start time to said individual tasks for each RFC to be done;

wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;

wherein the at least one job is selected from a group consisting of hardware changes and software changes; and

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for reserving all the servers involved for a duration that begins at the start of the first task and ends at the finish of the last task for each RFC that should be done.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing a value of all RFCs done;

wherein the value is a profit value derived from performing a plurality of jobs associated with a selected subset of the RFCs; and

wherein the profit value for each RFC is expressed as a value of performing the jobs minus a value of associated costs.

15. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing the number of RFCs done.

16. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing total downtime.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing at least one cost associated with downtime.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing a total execution time in implementing a task.

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for maximizing the number of RFCs meeting their deadlines

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing multiple deadline penalties associated with the RFCs and/or their respective tasks.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing an average response time of each RFCs.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 12, further comprising an arrangement for minimizing a weighted average response time of each RFCs.

23. **(Previously Presented)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for planning and scheduling tasks within at least one request for change (RFC) within a change window in a computing system, the method comprising the steps of:

deciding whether or not an RFC should be done;

for each RFC to be done, assigning individual tasks within each RFC to acceptable servers;

for each RFC to be done, assigning a start time to said individual tasks;

wherein the RFC describes at least one job to be done on at least one target computing system;

wherein the at least one job is selected from a group consisting of hardware changes and software changes; and

wherein the change window describes a period of time during which the RFC is to be done.